

5 March 1984

PERSIAN GULF
WAR

WOODRUFF: U.S. intelligence officials today confirmed estimates that Iran now has between 4- and 500,000 men massed near the Iraqi front. They say a decisive battle in the three-and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war is about to begin. The U.S. condemned Iraq today for what State Department spokesman John Hughes said was the prohibited use of chemical weapons. He says the U.S. has confirmed from non-Iranian sources that Iraq has used battlefield gases.

*Subject: US Confirmation
of troop estimates and
use of chemical weapons
in the Iran/Iraq war*